

FIREFIGHTER, CORRECTIONAL OFFICER AND LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

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Firefighter and Law Enforcement Officers Act 2004-637

Act 2004-637 is effective August 1, 2004. This Act amends Act 2000-669 to allow eligible members who have had NO previous opportunity to purchase hazardous duty service credit the option of purchasing the service credit. Member must purchase the service credit by July 31, 2005, or within one (1) year of his/her enrollment.

For additional information see the 2004 Legislative Update.

Firefighter, Correctional Officer and Law Enforcement Officer Act 2000-669

The provisions of Act 2000-669 apply to any full-time certified firefighter, correctional officer or law enforcement officer not covered as State Police. The provisions of the Act became effective January 1, 2001. The deadline for making contributions upon the periods of prior service is December 31, 2002.

Effective January 1, 2001, each eligible full-time certified firefighter, correctional officer or law enforcement officer shall contribute 6% of his or her earnable compensation.

Act 2000-669 will provide eligible firefighters, correctional officers and law enforcement officers with one year of additional retirement service credit for each 5 years of employment as a full-time certified firefighter, correctional officer or law enforcement officer **provided** that the member remits to the ERS or TRS 1% of his or her current annual earnable compensation or the previous year's annual earnable compensation, whichever is higher.

Contributions may be made upon the prior service in increments of 5 years unless the total prior service is less than 5 years. In that case, the service cost will be purchased in its entirety. Proportional credit will be awarded for periods of service less than 5 years.

The additional retirement service credit provided under this act will be granted upon the member's attainment of the required number of years to qualify for service or disability retirement. *The additional retirement service may not be used to meet the creditable service requirement for service or disability retirement.*

Certification for Firefighters

The agency must certify service for current or former firefighters who were employed full-time. The agency must certify eligible service as soon as possible. A separate ACT 2004-637 FIREFIGHTER CERTIFICATION FORM must be completed by each employing agency to which service under this act has been rendered.

The agency must remit six percent (6%) of the firefighter's earnable compensation effective January 1, 2001.

Certification for Law Enforcement Officers

The agency must certify service for current or former firefighters who were employed full-time. The agency must certify eligible service as soon as possible. A separate ACT 2004-637 LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS CERTIFICATION FORM must be completed by each employing agency to which service under this act has been rendered.

The agency must remit six percent (6%) of the law enforcement or corrections officer's earnable compensation effective January 1, 2001.